The FPA section held its annual business meeting in San Francisco on April 6, 2018. Elections produced a new leadership group, which included Susan Allen (President), Tim Peterson (VP and Section Program Chair for Toronto), Officers-at-Large Danielle Lupton (Colgate University), Baris Kesgin (Elon University), and Amy Skonieczny (San Francisco State), and Past President Brian Lai.

The FPA section sponsored or co-sponsored more than 90 panels and roundtables at the 2018 annual convention. Officer at large Amy Skonieczny chaired the Alexander George Graduate Student Paper Award competition for the best paper from the 2017 meeting. The committee selected Rachel Odell’s paper “Maritime Hegemony and the Fiction of the Free Sea”. The award was announced at the 2018 Business Meeting in San Francisco. For the 2018 Alexander George Graduate Student Paper Award competition, Officer at large Danielle Lupton chaired the selection process and the committee selected Rachel Myrick’s paper “Why So Secretive? Unpacking Public Attitudes Towards Secrecy and Success in U.S. Foreign Policy”.

In 2018, Professor Juliet Kaarbo (University of Edinburgh) was honored as Distinguished Scholar at a special roundtable at the annual meeting. Professor Kaarbo was also honored at our annual reception, which was co-sponsored by Scientific Study of International Processes Section (SSIP) and the Political Demography and Geography Section (PDG). This reception was organized by PDG and funded by donations from several partner groups and publishers, as well as by the sections. The reception was quite successful, and we plan to work with SSIP and PDG again in the future. The 2019 reception will be organized by SSIP president Shannon Blanton with support and funding from FPA and PDG.

In 2019, we will honor Professor A. Cooper Drury (University of Missouri) as our Distinguished Scholar at a roundtable and the reception co-sponsored by SSIP and PDG at the 2019 annual meeting in Toronto. We will also recognize the first winner of the Best Book in FPA Award. We received nominations for thirteen different books. The awards committee was made up of Cooper Drury (University of Missouri), Elizabeth Saunders (Georgetown University), Michael Flynn (Kansas State University) and Danielle Lupton (Colgate University).

We will also hold elections at our annual business meeting, where Tim Peterson (University of South Carolina) will take over as Section President through the 2020 convention in Honolulu, HI. The FPA section membership has been 886 in 2017, 963 in 2018 and projected to be 978 in 2019. Our section is still the second largest section. Our financial account has a balance of $24,133.89 as of November 2, 2018.